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TECHNICAL NOTE	Number	540
DATE: 14-Jul-00	Issue	2

TITLE:	FC PX5 Optimum Setup
ABSTRACT:	Recommendations for maximising PX5 battery life.

Introduction
Some PX5 end users have experienced problems getting a working shift out of the computer. Whilst the length of shift is largely dependant upon the working environment there are a number of steps that can be taken to extend the time between recharges.

Issues
The main issue surrounding the short charge life of the battery is the operating system timeouts. Leaving the backlight powered up will seriously reduce the charge life. Similarly, if the PX5 is unable to auto timeout the charge life will be significantly shorter.

It is important to note that end users will not require access to a computer for a large part of the shift, therefore it is important that the computer be allowed to power down to reduce running time and prolong battery life.

Optimum Configuration.

1. CMOS Setup.

The first point to consider when configuring the PX5 is the CMOS values. CMOS can be accessed by pressing 'ctl'+'alt'+'esc' immediately after the PX5 completes the memory tests.

The floppy drive should be set to none unless access to 'A:' is required. The second feature to check is the power settings, specifically the Activity Monitor. The 'Hard Drive', 'Com Ports', 'Parallel Port' and 'Video' settings should all be set to 'Enabled'. However, the 'Keyboard/Pen' setting should read 'Disabled' (Note: The Phoenix Battery Management Software uses the H8 and this is interpreted as keyboard activity. This resets the timeout and prevents auto power down).

The 'Inactivity Time-out' and 'Backlight Time-out' settings should be set to minimise inconvenience to the user and maximise power saving opportunities. The values set will depend upon the operating environment. However, the default settings (Inactivity=4mins, Backlight=2mins) generally considered to be a good compromise for most applications.

2. General Operation

For most configurations there are a number of points that must be considered. Continual screen updating must be avoided at all costs. Many programmers like to display and real time clock on the screen. This is often updated every few seconds and results in resetting the time out. This also applies to battery level indicators and any other status indicators that are regularly updated. Screen Savers should also be avoided.

Note: If it is not possible to configure the application to inhibit screen updates then the CMOS Activity Monitor setting for 'Video' should read 'Disabled'.

The Windows 95 task bar should not display status information such as the real time clock or battery level indicators. Any ongoing activity will prevent timeout and waste power.

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